

(In \$ Million)

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Loan Credit Amount</i>	<i>Amount disbursed by the end of Jan '92</i>
Indira Sarovar Hydro	52.337	5.797
Dudhichua Coal	151.0*	90.037*
Coal Mining & Quality Imp.	340.0*	218.236*
Madhya Pradesh Fertilizer	203.6	166.2
Vocational Training	208.8*	38.7*
Family Welfare Training	113.3*	22.3*
Technical Education I	210.0*	16.0*
Dam Safety Ass & Rehab.	153.0*	8.0*

* These are multisate projects which have a component in Madhya Pradesh. The figures relate to the entire project.

World Bank's Recommendations on Rural Banking system

709. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has made some recommendations regarding consolidating the rural banking system;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action on these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). It has been suggested by the World Bank that Rural Banking might be consolidated through certain institutional

changes which may *inter-alia* include simplification and revision of interest rates on agricultural loans, reduction of high level of overdues and improvement in the quality of lending to this sector. The Agricultural Rural Credit Review Committee (Khusro Committee) as well as the Committee on the Financial System (Narasimham Committee) have gone into the problems of rural banking separately and the recommendations made by them are under consideration of the Government.

Export of Cigarettes to Russia

710. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed any Tobacco factory to export Cigarettes to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the

value of cigarettes proposed to be exported; and

(c) the details of the agreement reached with Russia in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). Exports take place not on the basis of specific permissions given by Government but in terms of the Export-Import Policy, and the bilateral trade protocol. A provision for export of 3 billion pieces of Cigarettes to Russia has been made in the Trade Protocol for the year 1992.

[Translation]

Promotion of Firemen at Chakeri Air Force Station

711. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an examination for promotion of Firemen of Chakeri Air Force Station was held recently;

(b) if so, whether the candidates declared successful in the said examination, have been granted promotion;

(c) if not, the reasons for denying promotion to the successful candidates;

(d) the time by which all the candidates declared successful are likely to be promoted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). A Trade Test was conducted to fill up one vacancy of Fireman Grade I and Three vacancies of Leading Hand Fire (Ordinary Grade) on

27.7.1991. Since formal Trade Test was not prescribed for promotion to Fireman Grade I, the results of the test for this post were held invalid. Further, since the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) was found to be constituted in accordance with the old Recruitment Rules, its proceedings have been held invalid. A fresh DPC was found to be constituted in accordance with the old Recruitment Rules, its proceedings have been held invalid. A fresh DPC is being convened for the selection of the eligible candidates. The successful candidates are likely to be promoted by the end of March 1992.

Loans for Research and Development Activities

712. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide loans without interest to private firms for Research and Development activities; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the terms and conditions fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The commercial banks do not provide loans without interest to any person. The grant of loans to private firms for undertaking research activity including that for development/upgradation of new/existing technology is not considered as an activity under the purview of priority sector lending of commercial banks. Loans are provided by the banks for setting up of industries etc. for productive purposes after the availability of the projects have been assessed taking into consideration the use of technologies by the entrepreneurs. The rates of interest to be charged by banks on their advances are according to the directives issued by Re-